made Hyderabad the head-quarter of coordinating the Governmental activities in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A meeting was taken by the Home Minister recently in which the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa took part. In the discussions that followed it was Inter alia agreed that the State Governments would prepare Action Plans incorporating maintenance of law and order and also developmental measures which are necessary to tackle the root cause of the problem. The consensus that emerged was that the Ministry of Home Affairs would act as the nodal agency in this regard. The Home Minister assured all help to the State Governments in the matter. A follow up meeting at the official level was held in Hyderabad on 31st October, 1991 in which various administrative and other measures were discussed.

**Demand of Separate Job Quota for Muslims and Christians**

471. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand by Muslims and Christians to recognise these communities as educationally and socially backward class and to provide them with separate job quota in accordance with their population ration; and

(b) if so, the coming decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Vide O.M. dated 13th August, 1990 issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (Deptt. of Personnel & Training), 27% of vacancies in civil services/posts of the Government of India to be filled through direct recruitment have been reserved for Socially & Educationally Backward Classes which would include some Socially & Educationally backward Classes muslims and christians also. The said O.M. has been amended on 25th September, 1991 to provide for additional reservation of 10% of vacancies in civil services/posts under the Government of India to be filled through direct recruitment for the Other Economically backward Sections. This would also cover some sections of muslims and christian who satisfy the economic criteria to be laid down by the Government in this regard.

The entire question of reservations for the Socially & Educationally Backward Classes and Economically Backward Sections of citizens is subjudice before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

**Refusal of World Bank for Financial Assistance to Power Projects**

472. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has refused to grant any financial assistance for power projects of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the World Bank have suggested some corrective measures for the improvement of power situation; and

(d) if so, details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The World Bank had submitted a report in November, 1989 entitled "Power Sector Efficiency Review", wherein several suggestions were made for improvement in the power situation. The main recommendations of the Banks covered restructuring of the State Electricity Boards, the Regional Electricity Boards and the Central Electricity Authority, improvement in system operating practices and the coal quality etc. In 1990 and 1991 the Bank undertook a comprehensive study on "Long Term Issues in the Power Sector". The Bank's report is awaited.

**Electronic Exchange in Bareilly.**

473. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister in COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 522 on April 19, 1990 and state:

(a) the reasons for not commissioning Electronic Exchange at Bareilly; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be Commissioned?

DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). A 4000 line electronic exchange (Remote Line Unit) along with 1000 line digital trunk automatic exchange (E 10 B) has been allotted to Bareilly. It is proposed to commission this electronic exchange at Bareilly during 1993-94. There has not been any change in the commissioning programme. This electronic exchange did not form part of the 50000 lines commissioning programme (actual commissioning 58170 (Net) lines) of 1990-91. Only a 300 line expansion of electromechanical exchange was planned against which 1200 lines were commissioned on 9.3.1991.

[*Translation*]

**S.T.D. Facility at Haldwani/Bajpur**

474. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had granted approval to provide S.T.D. facility at Haldwani and Bajpur;

(b) if so, whether this facility has since been provided to the residents of these areas;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which this facility is proposed to be provided?

DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Due to the non automatisation of Haldwani exchange and also non availability of transmission media for Bajpur.

(d) By March, 1993.

**Electronic Exchanges in Bihar**

475. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of electronic exchanges in Bihar and the district-wise names of the system to whom these exchanges are attached;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges